

## IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday October 13th, 2024

---

### **Silent Keys – Joe Carragher EI6HHB and John Doherty EI9GB**

This week, we begin with the sad news of two Silent Keys. Joe Carragher, EI6HHB passed away on Friday, the 4th of October. He was laid to rest last Sunday October 6th. We wish to pass on our sincere condolences to Joe's wife Geraldine, his extended family, his former club members in Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club, and friends.

We were also very saddened to learn of the death of John Doherty EI9GB late of Buncrana, Co. Donegal. John passed away on Monday October 7th. His requiem mass was in St Mary's Church, Cockhill, Buncrana on Thursday October 10th. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha uaisle.

---

### **News from the IRTS**

HF newsreaders are currently sought to expand our existing panel, providing the weekly Sunday morning 40m and 80m news bulletins. The role involves minimal effort, requires no previous experience, and offers an enjoyable way to give back to our community. Additionally, the IRTS news team is considering the reintroduction of a weekly EI0IRTS news bulletin using Morse code. This was once a popular service and with a growing interest in this area of the hobby, we are putting out a call for your feedback to gauge the level of interest in participating.

If any licensed IRTS member residing in EI is interested in joining the IRTS newsreaders panel or participating in the potential weekly Morse bulletin, please contact the IRTS News Coordinator, Seany EI2HZZ, by phone on 083 4713001 or via email at [irts\\_pro /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_pro@irts.ie) for further information.

---

### **South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC**

The South Eastern Amateur Radio Group will be QRV as Echo India 25 Juliet Oscar Tango Alpha (EI25JOTA) with the 25th Wexford Scout Group, next weekend, October 18th to 20th as part of the 2024 International Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet festival. The group will be active with the scouts from Dunbrody Abbey outside Campile in Co. Wexford. Radio activities will include HF, UHF/VHF, DMR, an introduction to CW, fox hunting (which is a radio direction finding challenge), the NATO phonetic alphabet, Q codes, and much more. You are asked to please keep a listen out for any of the scout groups taking part in the event over the weekend and take a few minutes to have a chat with as many of them as you can. For more information about EI2WRC, their activities, and for

contact details, please see [www.searg.ie](http://www.searg.ie)

---

### **Update from Collective Communication**

Next weekend, Collective Communication EI3CC, will be participating in JOTA from the scout camp complex at Ballyscanlan Co. Waterford. A total of five scout groups will be holding their jamboree across two scouting venues approximately 1km apart. EI3CC will have two amateur radio stations operating during the event, one at each site. One station will be using the HF bands for CW, SSB, and some Slow Scan Television. The other will be operating solely through satellite QO-100 using SSB and CW. Activity will start on the afternoon of Friday 18th October and continue to around midday on Sunday 20th October. There will be a CB radio link for the scouts to use between the two amateur radio stations while testing their knowledge of the phonetic alphabet. A similar arrangement last year produced much amusement and delight among the scouts.

Amateur radio skeds have been arranged for contacts with scouts in multiple countries during the weekend and with the addition of SSTV, participants will enjoy seeing those with whom they are, or have been, in contact with.

During the past few years JOTA in Ireland has grown some three-fold and EI3CC is happy to have been a part of that resurgence. The club has found that working together with their friends has proved invaluable with everybody involved gaining benefit. You are asked to please keep an ear and an eye open for EI3CC during Jamboree on the Air next weekend.

The club thanks John EI3ISB and Ana EI5IXB for their input regarding the planning and expediting of this year's JOTA.

---

### **VHF/Microwave News**

For 4-meter band users and particularly those in the southern part of Ireland, you can try a FM net taking place on 70.2625 MHz on Tuesday night next from 9.p.m.

On Wednesday night next, October 16th, Dennis EI4KH is trialling a new net on the 6-meter band. It will start from 8 p.m. on 50.180MHz. Given the very active sun at present, some interesting contacts may be possible even at this late evening time.

This is followed by a 2m FM simplex net that takes place each Thursday night from 8 p.m. on 145.200MHz. Everyone is very welcome to join in with all the net activities.

---

### **IARU Monitoring System Region 1 Newsletter**

The September edition of the IARU Monitoring System Region 1 newsletter reports on the return of various digital modes commonly used by Russian stations. Over the horizon radar signals also feature predominately but this problem is also compounded by the presence of jammers trying to disrupt these signals. It is well worth seeing examples of these for

yourself which are helpfully included in the newsletter so that you know what to look out for. The newsletter may be downloaded from the Monitoring System section of the IARU website located at [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org)

---

### **Propagation Update**

On Monday and Tuesday next, the Hepburn Tropo Index indicates potential tropospheric ducting favouring the southeastern region of Ireland and into the UK for VHF operators.

After some excellent radio conditions especially on the 10-meter band, it all changed quickly as the HF bands took a hammering due to sunspot activity. A single sunspot region was responsible for three powerful X-flares over the past week causing bands to close. The most powerful flare in seven years was part of this trio earlier in the week measuring at an X9.05 magnitude. Continuing solar activity is expected to be moderate but with a somewhat unpredictable sun, further chances of X-class flares and potentially more auroral activity are possible over the coming days.

---

### **Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News**

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam /at/ irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

[C]

[News Archives](#)